Amendments to the Claims

1-15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Previously Presented) An article, including instructions residing on a computer-readable medium, the instructions causing a computer to:

receive discovery data collected from a discoverable network device by two or more discovery agents;

aggregate said discovery data

generate a relationship file characterizing relationships among discoverable network devices identified by the two or more discovery agents;

coalesce the discovery data in a software file comprising a discovery document, said discovery data including two or more duplicate data entries, wherein each of the duplicate entries relates to a discoverable network device identified by the two or more discovery agents; and

remove all but one of the duplicate data entries from the discovery document.

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to receive discovery data comprise instructions that cause the computer to call said two or more discovery agents from an agent directory.

19.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to aggregate said data comprise instructions that cause the computer to call two or more aggregator agents listed in an agent directory.

20.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim [[16]] 19,
wherein the agent directory comprises a plurality of Extensible
Markup Language (XML) files.

21.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16,
wherein the instructions that cause the computer to remove all
but one of the duplicate entries comprise instructions that
cause the computer to:

    identify two or more agents responsible for generating
the two or more duplicate data entries, each agent having a
priority value;

    compare the priority values of the two or more agents;

    identify a first agent having a highest priority, said
first agent responsible for generating a first duplicate data
entry in the two or more duplicate data entries; and

    remove all but the first duplicate data entry.

22.   (Original) The article of claim 21, wherein the two or
more agents are discovery agents.

23.   (Original) The article of claim 21, wherein the two or
more agents are aggregator agents.

24.   (Original) The article of claim 16, wherein the
discovery document is an Extensible Markup Language (XML) file.

25.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16,
wherein the instructions that cause the computer to receive
discovery data comprise instructions that cause the computer to
receive discovery data collected from two or more discoverable
network devices by said second two or more discovery agents.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25, further comprising instructions that cause the computer to:

store the discovery document in a discovery database; and

generate a key for each discovered discoverable network device in the discovery document.

27-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving discovery data collected from a discoverable network device by two or more discovery agents;

aggregating said discovery data;

generating a relationship file characterizing relationships among discoverable network devices identified by the two or more discovery agents;

coalescing the discovery data in a software file comprising a discovery document, said discovery data including two or more duplicate data entries, wherein each of the duplicate entries relates to a discoverable network device identified by the two or more discovery agents; and

removing all but one of the duplicate data entries from the discovery document.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein receiving discovery data further comprises calling said two or more discovery agents from an agent directory.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein aggregating said data further comprises calling two or more aggregator agents listed in an agent directory.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the agent directory comprises a plurality of Extensible Markup Language (XML) files.

35. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

identifying two or more agents responsible for generating the two or more duplicate data entries, each agent having a priority value;

comparing the priority values of the two or more agents;

identifying a first agent having a highest priority, said first agent responsible for generating a first duplicate data entry in the two or more duplicate data entries; and

removing all but the first duplicate data entry.